19: Dobyns R-8 (1950) 1951 NU28 Papago NU28

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"(c) An adequate supply of hot and cold running water shall be provided in all labor camps for bathing and laundry purposes unless otherwise authorized...in which case facilities for heating water shall be provided.

"(e) Facilities for drying clothes shall be provided."[1]

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These standards are met only on a few small cotton farms in Pima and Pinal counties where the farmers have invested in labor efficiency to the extent of installing indoor plumbing for their laborers. In these cases, the facilities for washing and bathing are considerably better than the standards of the suggested labor camp code.

However, if this suggested code were the law of Arizona, over 95% of the growers in both counties would be out of conformance. They provide no washing or bathing facilities beyond a hydrant where workers can obtain water.

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One reason Papago women do not put in a full workweek picking cotton is the amount of time they must spend in the camps washing out clothes in a galvinised tin wash-tub on an old-fashioned wash board. The clothes are hung out to dry on fences and trees in some camps, although most had clothes lines that appeared to be temporary affairs erected by workers rather than camp operators.

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Bathing in southern Arizona labor camps is a major operation. It is a matter of an enameled wash pan and a cloth, or doubling up in a wash-tub. Arizonans poke fun at migrants bathing in irrigation ditches, but a ditch full of water is the most practicable bathtub in the labor camps --the bather can get wet all over. But if the pump isn't running--and cotton isn't irrigated during picking season--there isn't even water in the ditch.

Papagos and most other cotton pickers in the region manage to keep amazingly clean, considering the difficulties they encounter. Small townspeople who turn up their noses at dirty Indians and Okies might try keeping themselves sweet-smelling under camp conditions before criticising (then they would criticise employers).

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[1] Federal Interagency Committee on Migrant Labor, 1947, p. 41-42.

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Cleanliness was a matter of wash tubs . . . scrubboards . . . outdoor fires . . .

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Improvised clothes lines . . .

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and wash pans . . .